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Prisons and Prisoners

Health condition of Mr. Mukundalal Sircar, a prisoner confined in the Central Jail at Salem.

* 397 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Mukundalal Sircar, a prisoner in the Central Jail at Salem, is ailing much on account of some complications in his body;

(*b*) by whom he was medically examined of late;

(*c*) what the results are of the diagnosis;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the prison diet in these prisons does not suit him;

(*e*) whether he requests for his transfer to any of the Bengal prisons;

(*f*) if so, what objections are there for such a transfer;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that he was placed in 'A' class by a Government Order (G.O. No. 4, Law, dated 1st April 1930, or thereabouts) while he was in prison during 1930;

(*h*) if so, whether a copy of the Government Order will be placed on the table;

(*i*) what objections there are to placing him in 'A' class now as was done once before;

(*j*) whether it is a fact that he requests that he should at least be supplied with a daily newspaper at his cost to read, and allowed to use his own mosquito curtain and easy chair; and

(*k*) if so, what objections the Government have to allow these privileges to him?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The District Medical Officer, Salem, who is also the Medical Officer of the jail.

(*c*) For his age and build, his health is all right.

(*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of question No. 220.

(*e*) & (*f*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (*a*) and (*c*) of question No. 218.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (*d*) of question No. 219.

(*j*) The request for these privileges was made in August 1934.

(*k*) The privileges asked for are inadmissible under the rules in the Jail Manual.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"There is a reference to the answers given to some other questions. I doubt whether any definite information has been furnished in those answers. May I ask for some definite information?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"Such information as is available has been given, Sir."

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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know, Sir, whether the medical report will be placed on the table of the House?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"I do not think it desirable to do so. If the hon. Member wants I can show it to him."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"In answer to clause (*h*), they say 'the answer is in the negative.' May I ask, Sir, what is the harm in placing a copy of the order on the table of this House?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"That is not the usual procedure."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—STATEMENT *RE* A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE MADRAS ESTATES LAND (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1934.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"Mr. President, Sir, may I know what steps the Government propose to take, in view of the moratorium which was granted to the inam tenants and of which they have been in enjoyment for the last two years, lapsing yesterday and in view of the fact that His Excellency the Governor General has not been pleased to give his assent to the Madras Estates Land (Amendment) Act, 1934, to protect the interests of the tenants and to safeguard them from being subject to eviction proceedings? I shall be glad to know if there is any proposal for special legislation."

* The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"Under section 127 (2) of the Madras Estates Land (Amendment) Act, 1934, certain classes of tenants of inamdars were protected from ejectment until to-day and proceedings in ejectment or in which the inamdars' right to the kudivaram was in issue were also stayed until this day. A Bill to secure occupancy rights to such tenants was passed by this Council on 25th October 1934 and it received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on 23rd March 1935. It is now awaiting the assent of His Excellency the Governor General. As the assent has not been given yet, the protection from eviction, etc., conferred by section 127 (2) will lapse to-day. It is considered necessary to continue such protection for a further period of six months. The Government have, therefore, decided to introduce during this sitting of the Council a Bill to amend section 127 (2) of the Act providing for extension of the time prescribed therein till the 1st May 1936 with effect from this date. This Bill, when passed into law, will have the effect of continuing without break the protection secured to ryots under section 127 (2) of the Act until 1st May 1936."

III.—THE MADRAS TOBACCO BILL—APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

* The Hon. the President:—"I have to announce that I have appointed Sir William Wright as the Chairman of the Select Committee to consider the Madras Tobacco Bill."